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**SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE
LAUNCHES 2024 PROGRAMMING AND
VENUE’S YEAR-LONG CENTENARY CELEBRATION**

**WITH ALISON ARNGRIM’S WICKEDLY HUMOROUS ONE-WOMAN SHOW *CONFESSIONS OF A PRAIRIE B\*TCH***

 **Show Recounts Her Role as the Bratty Pre-Teen Nellie Oleson from “Little House on the Prairie”**

**Six Performances Only
January 19-28, 2024**

(Sierra Madre, CA, December 12, 2023) The award-winning **Sierra Madre Playhouse**, a dynamic and intimate Southern California cultural hub, launches its 2024 programming and the venue’s year-long centenary celebration with **Alison Arngrim**’s global sensation ***Confessions of a Prairie B\*tch****,* a riotous one-woman show recounting her role as the bratty pre-teen Nellie Oleson from the hit television show “Little House on the Prairie,” with six performances January 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28, 2024.

TV fans around the world remember Arngrim as Nellie Oleson, the acid-tongued hellcat – declared “TV history’s #1 one bitch” by *Vanity Fair* – who tormented pure, sweet Laura Ingalls for seven years on “Little House on the Prairie.” In ***Confessions of a Prairie B\*tch***, Arngrim offers a riotous evening of anecdotes, stand-up comedy, and multimedia content about life as the scorned yet beloved devious pre-teen, complete with frilly petticoats and curls. The one-woman stage show made its debut in New York City in 2002 and has since become a global sensation, drawing packed houses in the U.S. and abroad. Arngrim’s comic memoir, based on her stage show and similarly titled *Confessions of a Prairie B\*tch: How I Survived Nellie Oleson and Learned to Love Being Hated* (Harper Collins), spent months on the *New York Times* Best Seller’s List.

Arngrim continues to amuse audiences through her numerous film and television appearances (*Make the Yuletide Gay*, *Livin’ the Dream*, *For the Love of May*) and stage work (*The Vagina Monologs*, *Dear Brutus*, *Joni and Gina’s Wedding*). As a stand-up comedian, she has headlinedat the Laugh Factory, the Comedy Store and the Improv in Los Angeles and comedy venues across the United States and Canada. Although Arngrim has gone on to successes in many arenas, Nellie has remained a centerpiece of her public acclaim.

Offstage, Arngrim has been a dedicated and compassionate AIDS activist for nearly three decades, volunteering for AIDS Project Los AngelesandTuesday's Child, an organization assisting children and families affected by HIV and AIDS. In addition, Arngrim currently serves as California Chair, National Spokesperson and Founding Board Member on the National Advisory Board of The National Association to Protect Children, or PROTECT.org, fighting to give children a legal and political voice in the war against child abuse.

In 2024, the Sierra Madre Playhouse, a designated historic landmark, commemorates the milestone 100th anniversary of its evolution from a silent movie house that opened in 1924 to a leading performing arts venue with an array of diverse programming that reflects the Playhouse’s unique trajectory and the community it serves.

Tickets to ***Confessions of a Prairie B\*tch*** ($12 - $45) are on sale now, as are single tickets and subscriptions to all performances in Sierra Madre Playhouse’s Spring 2024 Season. For tickets and information, please call 626.355.4318 or visit [www.sierramadreplayhouse.org](http://www.sierramadreplayhouse.org). Sierra Madre Playhouse is located at 87 West Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

**ABOUT ALISON ARNGRIM***New York Times* Best Selling author of *Confessions of A Prairie Bitch: How I Survived Nellie Oleson and Learned to Love Being Hated,* **Alison Arngrim** is best known to viewers world-wide for her portrayal of the incredibly nasty “Nellie Oleson” on the much loved, long running hit television series *Little House On The Prairie*, and continues to amuse audiences through her many film, television, stage and multi-media appearances. Her one woman show *Confessions of a Prairie Bitch*, which started at Club Fez in New York in 2002, has now become a world-wide phenomenon, having been performed to packed houses in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Green Bay, San Francisco, Seattle, and in France, where Arngrim performs entirely in Frenchto standing room only crowds in her all-French version titled: *Confessions d’une Garce de La Prairie* and *La Malle aux Tresors de Nellie Oleson.* As a stand-up comedian, Arngrim has headlined at nightclubs such as the Laugh Factory, the Comedy Store and the Improv in Los Angeles; as well as the Laurie Beechman Theatre in New York and assorted comedy venues across the United States and Canada. She is currently starring in two comedy series pilots: ***Life Interrupted*,** as the ex-wife of commercial child star Mason Reese, with Erin Murphy, (“Bewitched”) as *her* new wife and Dawn Wells, (“Gilligan’s Island), as her mother, as well as, ***C.P.R. – Child Performers Resurrection Talent Agency*,** as an ex-child star gone wrong, trying to save herself and her assorted misfit cohorts by opening a talent agency. Arngrim has mocked her status as an “ex-child star” on Jay Leno’s *Tonight Show*, during their month-long parody, “Hollywood Survivor” and continues to be a frequent interview subject on everything from A&E, “E! Entertainment, TV Land and VH-1, to CNN and the Travel Channel. The TV Land network honored her undying image as TV’s worst bitch, by declaring her the winner of their 2006 award for, **“Character Most Desperately In Need Of A Time Out.”** She starred in the heartwarming, gay, Christmas cult classic, ***Make the Yuletide Ga****y*, as the overbearing “Heather Mancuso.” Her other television and film appearances include, ***Livin’ the Dream*,** ***Tinder & Grinder***, ***The Bilderberg Club***, ***For the Love of May*** with Ru Paul and Patricia Neal, and ***The Last Place On Earth*** with Billy Dee Williams and Phyllis Diller. In 2007, she began her foray into French cinema with the role of “Edith” in the French detective comedy, Jean Pierre Mocky’s ***Le Deal*.** Her stage work includes, ***The Vagina Monologs***, ***Sirena: Queen of the Tango*, *Dear Brutus***, ***The Wool Gatherer***, the French bedroom farce, ***In One Bed And Out The Other*,** Michael Kearns’ ***AIDS/US II*,** “Rita” in the 2005 GLAAD Award nominated production of ***Last Summer At Bluefish Cove***, the somewhat off kilter “Reverend Pat Miass” in ***Joni and Gina’s Wedding***, and the Ovation Award Nominated musical-drama, ***Flirting with Morty***, as the abusive, trashy and tragic Ray Lee. In her spare time, she takes tourists on the rollicking comedy outing, ***Nasty Nellie’s Tour of Hollywood***, (featured at Dearly Departed Tours), where she simultaneously enlightens and amuses passengers with behind the scenes tales from both Hollywood history and her own life.

Never one to forget her “Prairie” roots, Arngrim enjoys making appearances several times a year at various ***Little House on the Prairie*** historical sites for educational events and gatherings of fans. She has been a frequent visitor to the **Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum** in the real-life Walnut Grove, Minnesota as well as Green Bay, Wisconsin’s **Heritage Hills**, Mumford’s **Genesee Country Village**, **Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Home and Museum** in Mansfield, Missouri and many, many others.

Arngrim has a long history of activism. In 1986 when her friend and "Little House husband" co-star, Steve Tracy, passed away due to complications of HIV/AIDS, Arngrim immediately began volunteering at **AIDS Project Los Angeles.** Her duties ranged from working on the Southern California AIDS Hotline and the APLA food bank, (APLA's Necessities of Life Program,) to chairing the steering committee of the volunteer speakers bureau and developing “Safer Sex” workshops. She has provided AIDS education to doctors, nurses, prison inmates, service clubs, churches, department stores and schools, written AIDS education articles for the magazines ***Frontiers*** and ***Designers West***, and spent seven years hosting the APLA educational cable television show, *AIDS Vision*. In 1992, Joel Wachs presented Arngrim with a resolution by the Los Angeles City Council commending her on her work on behalf of people living with HIV and AIDS. From 1989 through 1993, Arngrim served as Program Manager at **Tuesday's Child**, an organization assisting children and families affected by HIV and AIDS. From 1989 through 2003 she served as both hostess and producer for the comedy stage at the **AIDS Project Los Angeles Annual Summer Party**, (on the backlot of Universal Studios), where through an evening of raucous entertainment, featuring name comedians, she helped to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for people living with HIV. She currently serves as California Chair, National Spokesperson and Founding Board Member on the National Advisory Board of **The National Association to Protect Children,** or **PROTECT.org**, fighting to give children a legal and political voice in the war against child abuse. As an activist for the improvement of child protection laws, Arngrim has spoken before the California Senate and worked on legislative and political campaigns in several states, including Virginia and New York, in addition to PROTECT’s work on federal legislation in Washington, D.C. Arngrim has appeared on numerous television news programs discussing the legal and political issues surrounding child sexual abuse and exploitation. She came forward to tell the world about the sexual abuse she suffered in her own life, during her 2004 interview on ***Larry King Live***. She continues to be interviewed on this and other topics on ***Nancy Grace***, **CNN’s *Showbiz Tonight***, ***The Insider***, ***Court TV***, and **Bill O’Reilly’s *The Factor***.

Arngrim currently lives in the wilds of Tujunga with her husband of over 20 years, musician Bob Schoonover, (from the rock and roll band “Catahoula”) and their evil cat, Clarice. She takes pride in the fact that so many people enjoyed hating her as a girl and is more than happy to give them the opportunity to do so in the future.

**ABOUT SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE**Sierra Madre Playhouse, a vibrant Southern California cultural hub with a rich history spanning nearly a century, energizes audiences and the community with distinctive theatrical productions and captivating live performances. Hailed as a “jewel” (*Pasadena Weekly*) and “a landmark theater” (*ABC7 Los Angeles*), it has garnered tremendous accolades for its varied repertoire and thought-provoking education and outreach programs curated with social impact in mind. The *Los Angeles Times* proclaims, “This is theater from the heart.” As one of San Gabriel Valley’s only performing arts center presenting a broad spectrum of performance genres, including theater, music, dance, film, comedy, and family-friendly productions featuring eminent local and national professional artists, the treasured artistic beacon draws audiences from across the Southland. The intimate 99-seat Sierra Madre Playhouse offers an up-close and personal connection to performances that resonate deeply, earning multiple Ovation Awards, NAACP Awards, and LA Times Critics' Choice honors. It is nestled into a historic building on the inviting Main Street of Sierra Madre, a charming village in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. Retaining its distinctive movie theater façade and instantly recognizable marquee, the structure has undergone numerous transformations since opening in 1910, from furniture emporium to silent movie theatre to the artistic institution that now stands as a vibrant embodiment of the region’s rich cultural legacy. The Sierra Madre Playhouse fosters creativity that aspires to bridge divides and spark dialogue, all while celebrating the rich tapestry of the American experience and the enduring pursuit of shared understanding.

**EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

***WHAT:***

**Sierra Madre Playhouse Presents *CONFESSIONS OF A PRAIRIE B\*TCH***

A One-Woman Theatrical Performance Featuring Alison Arngrim

**WHEN:**

Friday, January 19, 2024, 8 pm

Saturday, January 20, 2024, 8 pm

Sunday, January, 21, 2024, 2 pm

Friday, January 26, 2024, 8 pm

Saturday, January 27, 2024, 8 pm

Sunday, January 28, 2024, 2 pm

**WHERE:**

Sierra Madre Playhouse
87 West Sierra Madre Boulevard
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

**TICKETS & INFORMATION:**

Tickets ($12 - $45) are on sale now, as are single tickets and subscriptions to all performances in Sierra Madre Playhouse’s Spring 2024 Season.

626.355.4318

[www.sierramadreplayhouse.org](http://www.sierramadreplayhouse.org)

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